



Oct. - Dec. 2011

# The Mitigation Minute



FEMA



DNR

www.dnr.sc.gov

## Tis the Season to ...Evaluate?

With a new year just around the corner, most of us look at resolutions to make some sort of improvements in our lives...eat healthier, get more exercise, spend more time with the family etc. This time of year is also a good time to re-evaluate the work we do though, and in my brief tenure in this position, I have found that we can all do better in the area of public information. We may eat, breathe and live floodplain management throughout the year, but for the average citizen, unless these issues are published in the media or they hear about flood issues from an insurance agent or mortgage lender, they may never be considered. Below are some results from a FEMA survey that may assist you in evaluating your outreach and informational activities, and may result in better informed citizens and more resilient communities.



### One hundred residents in Region IV were surveyed:

- \* Only 23% of respondents had viewed their community's flood map. Of those, 30% saw it in a public building or local official's office, 20% saw it on the local news and 15% saw it on a website.
- \* The most mentioned source of flood information was the media with 59%, followed by 43% a flood experience and 25% was from local officials.
- \* 21% said flood damage was covered by their homeowner's or renter's insurance.
- \* When asked how often they hear about flood risk from local officials, 50% said never, 25% said several times a year and 10% said annually.
- \* The most expected source of flood risk information was the media with 61%, followed by the mayor at 43% and the floodplain manager with 29%.
- \* The top 3 ways respondents wish to receive flood risk information is through the media at 83%, mailings at 27% and phone calls at 27%.
- \* Of those who were informed about their flood risk, 34% said it was from their insurance agent, and 18% by their mortgage lender.
- \* 56% said that they were never informed of their flood risk.

## Put the Lime in the CoCoRaHS:

No, we're not making up any holiday beverages, it's work related, I promise! Let me introduce you to The **Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network**! Are you disappointed? Don't be, because this can be fun, and you can be involved...now drink it all up!

From the brochure's Brief History, "CoCoRaHS came about because of a devastating flash flood that hit Fort Collins, Colorado in July 1997. A very localized storm dumped over a foot of rain in several hours while other portions of the city had only modest rainfall. The ensuing flood killed five people and caused \$200 million in damages." CoCoRaHS was started after this event and aimed to get volunteers to measure rainfall so that storm events and rain totals could be mapped; information valuable to scientists and residents. Eventually the program expanded to hail and snow, and now you too can help measure precipitation...from your own backyard.

When a volunteer joins CoCoRaHS, you are provided with a rain gauge for a nominal fee and you will be asked to make daily logs, online, of the precipitation in your gauge. The information is posted immediately online, and is then available in a map and table form for use by scientists, resource managers, decision makers and the general public.

Looking for a last minute gift? Check out the CoCoRaHS website at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org) and give a gift that will benefit many, last for years, and be a daily reminder to someone that you care! For more information and availability of the gauges locally, contact the State Climatologist, Hope Mizzell at 734-9568.



<b>Maria Cox Lamm</b>	<b>803-755-9335</b>
<b>Karen Jones</b>	<b>803-755-9978</b>
<b>Joy Sullivan</b>	<b>803-755-9312</b>
<b>Andy Brandenburg</b>	<b>803-755-9298</b>
<b>Fax</b>	<b>803-755-0152</b>
<b>2762 Wildlife Lane West Columbia, SC 29172</b>	



### CFM Corner:

#### **FEMA's Expanded Appeal Process**

FEMA has established an Expanded Appeals Process (EAP) that will take effect for all studies that will have an appeals period beginning on preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study Reports after December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Under the previous process, there were **appeals** and **protests** – appeals challenged new Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and required scientific data warranting changes. Protests, for the most part, challenged corporate limits, road names, stream names, etc. Under the EAP, there will be **appeals** and **comments**. What is appealable now has expanded to include not only new BFEs, but the addition/modification of any Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary (both approximate and detailed floodplains), zone designations, or floodway boundaries. The requirement for submission of scientific data to warrant changes remains in place. Comments, like protests, will cover challenges to corporate limits, road names, stream names, etc.

The counties that will fall under the new expanded appeals process will have the FIS and map panels posted to the SCDNR website for convenient access to the general public. Go to <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/flood/comaps.html> to view those maps.

Counties under the old appeals process will not have their preliminary maps posted there, but if you are looking for effective map study data, you can go to the FEMA Map Service Center at [www.msc.fema.gov/](http://www.msc.fema.gov/). If you have any questions about the new Expanded Appeals Process, please contact us.



**Thank you to the counties, and communities therein, of Marion County for adopting your ordinances by the map effective date and enabling our office to maintain 100% compliance !**

**Counties with maps going effective before the next newsletter: None**

**Laurens County - Compliance Period Beginning - Proposed for early 2012**

The participating communities within the above listed county will need to update and re-adopt their Flood Prevention Ordinance with the new map effective date and FEMA required language (which changed within the last few months). This office has revised the state model ordinance, so if you've used the model in the past, and wish to use it again, please prepare the ordinance for re-adoption using **Version 9**. This version has been emailed to the affected communities, but if you need a copy, call or email us.

Remember that we request that the ordinance be reviewed here before it goes to council for readings, and that a true or certified copy must be sent to us ***before*** the map effective date.

***Our goal is to have these compliant and adopted at least one month prior to the map effective date. Your cooperation is appreciated!***

#### **Training:**

Please see the website for the latest postings of trainings being offered at [https://www.dnr.sc.gov/flood/flood\\_train\\_info](https://www.dnr.sc.gov/flood/flood_train_info)

***Happy Holidays from the Flood Mitigation Staff!***

Please note that our office will be closed from December 23rd through the 28th for Christmas, and then again on January 2nd to mark the New Year holiday.

